tes of Maharashtra, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been number of deaths due to starvation in the Kalahandi district of Orissa during the last three months; and

(c) whether Government have provided some special relief to the drought prone States to avoid starvation deaths and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Government of Maharashtra, Orisa and Andhra Pradesh have reported drought conditions of varying degrees in parts of the States.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Indo-USSR Protocol on Co-operation in the Water Resources Sector

*794. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the USSR have recently signed a protocol for co-operation in the water resources sector;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof;

(c) the areas which are likely to be covered by it; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) A protocol of Cooperation between Ministry of Water Resources, India and Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management, USSR in the field of irrigation and Water has been signed on 3rd April, 1987.

The Cooperation Programme covers areas like construction of dams and canals using targetted blasting method; designing hydraulic structures on unstable soil; studies for design and construction of High Earth and Rock-fill Dams in areas of seismic activity; ground water exploration and prospective drilling; drainage systems for effective control of land salinization and water logging etc.

Application of new Farm Techniques in Rural Areas

795. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new farm techniques have not reached the rural areas in spite of several years of its invention and application; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for the application of new farm techniques in the rural areas in full measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No Sir, the modern farm techniques in Agriculture are being disseminated in the rural areas by extension machinery of State Agriculture Departments/State Agriculture Universities.

(b) The steps taken for application of new farm techniques in the rural areas include:

(i) Reorganisation of farm extension services in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra; Orissa; Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal by adopting the training & visit system of extension which provides for transfer of farm technology in agriculture from research scientists to Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) in monthly Workshops, from SMS to Village Extension